



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 6 2013

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Ms. Jean Reynolds
USAF AFCEC/CZN
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9853

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Department of the Air Force's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the KC-46A Formal Training Unit (FTU) and First Main Operating Base (MOB 1) Beddown (CEQ No. 20130301).

The draft EIS addressed the potential environmental effects of establishing a KC-46A FTU to train crew and support personnel to operate the KC-46A aircraft and the MOB 1 to provide a combat operational KC-46A aerial refueling force. The KC-46A aerial refueling aircraft will replace a portion of the aging fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers. The U.S. Air Force identified Altus Air Force Base (AFB) as the preferred alternative for the FTU scenario and McConnell AFB as the preferred alternative for the MOB 1 scenario. Altus AFB includes the beddown of one FTU squadron by Air Education and Training Command with up to eight KC-46A aircraft. McConnell AFB would be the beddown of three squadrons by the Air Mobility Command with 36 KC-46A aircraft.

EPA believes that the draft EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts and we have not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes. EPA has rated the draft EIS as LO – "Lack of Objections." A summary of EPA's rating is enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft EIS. The staff contact for the review is Candi Schaedle and she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Bromm", is written over the typed name and title.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities

Enclosure